Lambda Letters Project

Vol. 15, No. 7 July, 2007 www.lambdaletters.org LambdaLP@aol.com (916) 728-1261

July 12: An evening of joy!

July 12 marks the day that the Lambda Letters Project hosts the 2007 Jazz Civil Rights Fund Raiser and Awards Ceremony. You are cordially invited.

The event will be held at 6 PM on the 16th floor of the Holiday Inn, 300 J Street, in Sacramento. The site of the gala has a beautiful view of Sacramento. Music will be offered by the Jazz Generation and a delicious dinner will be provided.

The following awards will be given:

- **Female Legislator of the Year:** Assemblymember Karen Bass. Honorable mentions: Assemblymember Judy Chu and Senator Sheila Kuehl.
- **Male Legislator of the Year:** Senator Gil Cedillo. Honorable mentions: Assemblymembers John Laird and Mark Leno.
- **Outstanding Volunteer of the Year:** Dennis Mangers.
- **Outstanding Service Award:** Equality California, Stefan Gruenwedel, and Dr. Jerome Murphy.
- **Outstanding Community Member:** Terry Sidie of Faces.

There will be door prizes, a silent auction, and great music. RSVP to Myeva Thierry at myeva.thierry@lambdaletters.org or (916) 444-8501. Requested donation is $50 each. Come and enjoy the fun!

Listen to our podcasts

By Boyce Hinman, chief lobbyist

There is a new podcast on the Lambda Letters website. A podcast is a recorded message you can listen to directly on your computer. This particular recording summarizes what happened to our LGBTI bills in the state legislative process.

According to the state legislature's rules, all bills had to be approved by their house of origin no later than June 8. Any bills that missed the deadline are dead for this year. Our podcast summarizes what happened to the LGBTI bills.

To listen to the podcast, go to the Lambda Letters website at *lambdaletters.org*. Scroll down until you see a box with a pink round button on it. The title at the top of the box reads, "Bills Hit a Deadline." To hear the podcast, click the pink button.

We expect to place a new podcast on our website each month. To hear past recordings, click the Podcasts link in the main navigation area.

Happy listening!

You could win $250

By Boyce Hinman, chief lobbyist

This month I am announcing that I personally will offer a prize of $250 to the person who enrolls the most *dues-paying* members of the Lambda Letters Project by September 1, 2007. There will be a second and third prize as well. The person enrolling the second highest number of paid members by September 1 will win $150. The third-place winner will get $100. To win a prize, a contestant must submit a minimum of 20 new, paid members.

In case of a draw for first second or third prize, the winner will be chosen by lottery.

To qualify, all members enrolled must be new members and must be residents of California. People who wish to compete in the contest can sign up new members and then list their names and contact information on the enclosed pink form. You can list several new members on each form. When you complete the form, send it and the new members' dues payments to: Lambda Letters Project, 717 K Street, Suite 224, Sacramento, CA 95814.

After we receive the completed form, we will send you a new form for use in enlisting more dues-paying members. Contestants have until September 1, 2007, to

Continued on page 11

Also in this newsletter

You could win $250 ..... 1, 11
HIV/AIDS issue 3–4
Economic justice issue 3
LGBTI issue 3, 11
People of color issue 4
Women's issue 4, 11
July legislative update 5–10
Why did you get two envelopes? 11

Lambda Letters progress report

Letters collected	
May, 2007	46,058 letters & e-mails
In all of 2007	129,224 letters & e-mails
Dollars spent	
May, 2007	$3,906
In all of 2007	$21,112

Can you help?
Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Our mission

To promote the social, economic, and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex individuals, couples, and families; people affected by HIV/AIDS; people of color; women; and people of low economic status. We urge elected officials to enact and support legislation that accomplishes this goal.

Board of directors

Chair: Pat Washington, San Diego, pat.washington@lambdaletters.org
Vice-chair: Shirin Buckman, Hollywood, shirin.buckman@lambdaletters.org
Treasurer: Ellis Vance, Fresno, ellis.vance@lambdaletters.org
Secretary: Anne Daniels, Sacramento, anne.daniels@lambdaletters.org
Alex Eng, Sacramento, alex.eng@lambdaletters.org
Joy Fisher, Sacramento, joy.fisher@lambdaletters.org
Sara E. Freid, Sacramento, sara.freid@lambdaletters.org
Debi Henry, Sacramento, debi.henry@lambdaletters.org
Lorenzo Holguin, Clovis, lorenzo.holguin@lambdaletters.org
Stacy L. Saetta, Soquel, stacy.saetta@lambdaletters.org

Board candidates

Gloria Smart, Oakland, gloria2smart@yahoo.com
Vernon Tisdall, Carlsbad, printstudentid@sbcglobal.net

Staff

Chief lobbyist, e-mail alert advocate: Boyce Hinman, (916)728-1261, boyce.hinman@lambdaletters.org
Newsletter/website editor: Stefan Gruenwedel, stefan.gruenwedel@lambdaletters.org
Legislative analysts:
- LGBTI issues: Shirin Buckman, shirin.buckman@lambdaletters.org
- HIV/AIDS issues: Lorraine Rinker, lorraine.rinker@lambdaletters.org
- People of color issues: Marty Martinez, marty.martinez@lambdaletters.org
- Women's issues: Joy Fisher, joy.fisher@lambdaletters.org
- Economic issues: Rebecca Chamow, rebecca.chamow@lambdaletters.org

Administrative assistant: Myeva Thierry, myeva.thierry@lambdaletters.org
Volunteer coordinator: Pat Washington, pat.washington@lambdaletters.org
Foundation volunteers: Joy Fisher, joy.fisher@lambdaletters.org; Rusty Nichols rusty.nichols@lambdaletters.org

Publication of the name of any person or organization in articles or advertising in the Lambda Letters Project newsletter is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. The Lambda Letters Project does not sell or loan its mailing list to anyone. We give no information about who is, or is not, a member of the Project. We do, occasionally, send mailings on behalf of other worthwhile organizations, but this is done by our own volunteers so that no other organization has the opportunity to copy our mailing lists.

The Lambda Letters Newsletter is published monthly, except in December, by
Lambda Letters Project Inc.
717 K Street, Suite 224
Sacramento, CA 95814

Send address changes to the Lambda Letters Project address above or e-mail address.change@lambdaletters.org

Discrimination Complaints

Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation or because of your age (40 and over), ancestry, color, creed, disability, marital status, medical condition, national origin, race, religion, or sex? Have you been denied family and medical care leave or pregnancy disability leave? If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684. In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212. The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

Sponsors of Lambda Letters Project

Visionary ($5,000 or more)
Boyce Hinman & Larry Beaty; Crystal Weber of Studio C; Mark Whisler

Partner ($2,500–$4,999)
Anne Daniels

Activist ($1,000–$2,499)
Robin L. Greiner, Jr. & Ellis Vance; Barry Lynch; Jerome L. Murphy, MD & Andrew Tran; Peter S. Tannen & David Cameron; Patricia Washington & Maggie Allington

Advocate ($500–$999)
Ellen Bush; Joy Fisher; *Imperial Sovereign Court/ 14th Region;* Richard E. Jennings; Dennis H. Mangers & Michael Sestak; M.F. Preston; Julia M. & Samuel Thoron

Sponsor ($200–$499)
Lucien L. Agosta, PhD; Mugurdich Balabanian, MD & Françoise Balabanian, PhD; Hal Brown; Clark Burnett; Darla Bussey & Debbie Helmns; Michael Butler; E.L. Charlton; Robert & Rosalee Clarke; Robert B. Clarke, Jr.; Carol Cook & Susan Grieger; Paul Felice; Stefan Gruenwedel; Marylou Hacker & Cynthia Delgado; Dick Hacking & Rex Amoyes; Susan Davis Hopkins; Mark Hurner; Jesse Joad & Ann Bonham; Thomas Kaiser; J. Michael Lee, MD & Ken Rainey; Marilyn & Lee Mettler, DDS; Rusty Nichols; Donald Ricart & Albert Bousquet; Elaine Verbarg & Denyse Curtright

Supporter ($100–$199)
Bruce Balderson; Marcy Beilach; Wayne Boos; Donna Bryan; Sheila L. Cardno; Kathleen Carson & Meda Cadl; Carolyn & Dean Cliver; Pat Coffey & Sandy Gaudur; Dennis Dudley & Gary Nelson; Charles & Janet Dugan; *Fresno Stonewall Club;* Elwood Gerrits; Janet Hansen; David Hanson; Joseph Heil; Sylvia Hill; Lu J. Hoge & Terrie Bressette; H. Nona Hungate; Jennifer Jones; Gordon L. Larsen, MD; Adelle & Robert Lemon; Edward Charles Lenhart; Robert J. Mahoney; Catherine Marcotte & Therese Cleary; Nancy McKernan & Cindy Baudoin; Dale C. Meyer; B.L. Muirhead; Jeffery E. Myers; Emily Nalven; Chris Newman & Mark Corsi; Joan Potter; John Ribaudo, MD; David Rivers; Allan Robin; Daniel Rodriguez; Mary Rohwer; Scott E. Roy & Scott Kitrell; Kimberly Salter & Santiago Estrada; *San Diego LGBT Pride;* Maria Shelley; Gary Slate & Danny Tsao; Steven Solomon; Jerald M. Stinson; J. Stanley Teixeira; John M. Tibbals; *Uptown Gay and Lesbian Alliance, Inc.;* John Voris; Kathryn Weston & Debra Harding; Shasti Williams; Katherine Wolfe & Waldeed Doany

This newsletter printed on recycled paper

Yes, I'll Help Get New Members!!
I Would Like The $250 Prize

See page one of July newsletter for details.

Here Is My Contact Information
Please Print Clearly

First Name -_____ Last Name - _____

Street Address - _____, Apt. No. -_____

City/State - _____ ZIP - _____

Phone - ( ) _____ E-mail Address - _____

Here Are New Members I Have Signed Up

First Name -_____ Last Name - _____

Street Address - _____, Apt. No. -_____

City/State - _____ ZIP - _____

Phone - ( ) _____ E-mail Address - _____

Dues Paid (Please check) - Limited income = $20 _____, Individual = $35_____,

Household (Any number of residents) = $60_____

First Name -_____ Last Name - _____

Street Address - _____, Apt. No. -_____

City/State - _____ ZIP - _____

Phone - ( ) _____ E-mail Address - _____

Dues Paid (Please check) - Limited income = $20 _____, Individual = $35_____,

Household (Any number of residents) = $60_____

Please See Other Side

First Name -_____ Last Name - _____

Street Address - _____, Apt. No. -_____

City/State - _____ ZIP - _____

Phone - ( ) _____ E-mail Address - _____

Dues Paid (Please check) - Limited income = $20_____, Individual = $35 _____,

Household (Any number of residents) = $60_____

First Name -_____ Last Name - _____

Street Address - _____, Apt. No. -_____

City/State - _____ ZIP - _____

Phone - ( ) _____ E-mail Address - _____

Dues Paid (Please check) - Limited income = $20_____, Individual = $35_____,

Household (Any number of residents) = $60_____

First Name -_____ Last Name - _____

Street Address - _____, Apt. No. -_____

City/State - _____ ZIP - _____

Phone - ( ) _____ E-mail Address - _____

Dues Paid (Please check) - Limited income = $20_____, Individual = $35 _____,

Household (Any number of residents) = $60_____

Total Number of New Members = _____ **Total Amount Enclosed = $_____**

Please send your checks and this form to:
The Lambda Letters Project
717 K Street Suite 224
Sacramento, CA 95814

HIV/AIDS issue

Support HIV/AIDS prevention strategies for youth and elderly

By Lorraine Rinker, legislative analyst

For America and the world, the message is clear: only prevention can stop HIV.

California ranks second in the nation in cumulative AIDS cases, surpassed only by New York. From 1981 through 2003, California accounted for 15% of cumulative AIDS cases reported in the US; and the number of people living with AIDS in California continues to increase as over 57,000 Californians live with HIV/AIDS today.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) data from 25 states (California included) with longstanding HIV reporting show that among people aged 25–34 years, the estimated number of new diagnoses from 1994 through 2003 declined by a remarkable 49%. However, in youth aged 13–24, new HIV diagnoses remained stable during this same period. Through June 2001, more than half of all HIV-infected teen males were infected through sex with men. The same data suggests that half of all adolescent females who were infected with HIV were exposed through heterosexual contact and a very small percentage through injection drug use.

CDC prevention research has identified many interventions that help young people adopt healthier behaviors and utilizes abstinence as its primary message for youth. One of the CDC's strategic goals is to increase and sustain safe behaviors among the youth population. "Prevention in a box" is a CDC project that takes interventions proven effective with specific populations and packages them into kits for use by local HIV prevention agencies. Of 10 interventions, three serve youth only and two others include youth in their populations served.

The focus continues to be on younger populations. However, there is also a growing HIV/AIDS problem developing among the elderly. This problem among those over 50 will only continue to grow as baby boomers

Continued on page 4

Economic justice issue

Change the limitations on domestic partnerships

By Rebecca Chamow, legislative analyst

For several years now, the state of California has recognized the civil union of two people by allowing them to register as domestic partners, where they have similar legal rights as married couples. While this recognition is an important step toward achieving equal family and marriage rights, the law limits eligibility for domestic partnership to same-sex couples and couples over 62.

Senator Carole Migden (D–San Francisco), who wrote the landmark legislation which first allowed domestic partnership, has introduced SB 11 to eliminate these restrictions and expand the domestic partnership law to apply to any couples who meet the other specified criteria. This bill is extremely important because it gives heterosexual couples over 18 years old the same rights as same-sex couples.

This is simple equity issue. As the law is currently written, unmarried heterosexual couples do not have the ability to become domestic partners unless at least one of them is 62 or older. Therefore they do not have the same legal and civil rights as registered domestic partners or married couples. It is extremely important that we, as a state, recognize that the definitions of marriage and family are quickly shifting in California.

The legislation that has been passed during the past decade to expand the rights of same-sex couples, and to reform traditional ideas of marriage and family, shows the importance of this shift. While the progress we have made is outstanding, many unmarried heterosexual couples have been left out of these discussions about expanding the family model.

As the law is currently written, many families do not have access to the same rights given to other families in California. This needs to change. Please write to the legislature and urge their support for SB 11. This bill is a very important step toward further expanding the legal definition of marriage and giving equal rights to all families.

LGBTI issue

Support safe schools

By Shirin Buckman, legislative analyst

Please write to your senator and ask him or her to support AB 394, the Safe Schools Act. AB 394 is good legislation because it protects LGBTIQ students from discrimination and harassment. The bill requires the State Department of Education to ensure that antidiscrimination and harassment policies are followed by each school and that they have adopted an appropriate grievance process to investigate complaints. Language of the bill includes perceived and actual gender identification and sexual orientation.

This bill is a way to enforce the California Safe Schools Act of 2000 and Section 201 of the California Education Code, which affirms that every student has a right to be free of discrimination and harassment at their school, no matter who they are. The 2004–06 California Healthy Kids Survey results found that 27–30% of California middle and high school pupils reported experiencing bias-related harassment at school related to their race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or disability.

Why do we have to protect LGBTIQ youth? According to a study by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), 37.8% of students experienced physical harassment at school on the basis of sexual orientation and 26.1% on the basis of their gender expression. Almost 18% of students had been physically assaulted because of their sexual orientation and 11.8% because of their gender expression.

More specifically, less than half of ninth-grade students express feeling safe at school, while 46% of pupils said their schools were not safe for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender pupils. Students who are harassed based on actual or perceived sexual orientation are at least three times more likely to carry a weapon to school, to seriously consider suicide, to make a plan for attempting suicide, or to miss at least one day of school per 30 school days because they do not feel safe.

In addition, a number of school districts have paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages to settle lawsuits by students

Continued on page 11

This newsletter printed on recycled paper

People of color issue

Support reparations for unconstitutional deportations

By Marty Martinez, legislative analyst

In 2005 Governor Schwarzenegger signed the Apology Act for the 1930s Mexican Repatriation Program, which acknowledges the suffering that tens of thousands of Americans experienced when they were forced out of their homes. The apology is only the first step in acknowledging and trying to amend their traumatic experiences. It is imperative that we offer the opportunity for a monetary compensation to those Americans who were stripped of their basic civil rights, property, and dignity.

Historically many underrepresented groups have experienced the violation of their human rights: Japanese-Americans were interned, millions of Germans were victims of genocide, and African-Americans were forced into slavery. Legislation has been used to address these violations of human rights by offering apology acts, requiring the adoption of course study, and in some cases offering compensations for the victims' losses.

During the 1930s, the US government violated the human rights of many Americans of Mexican ancestry. An estimated two million people were unconstitutionally deported to Mexico. In California alone, about 400,000 Americans citizens and legal residents were deported to Mexico.

SB 552 would create the Reparations Fund for the Unconstitutional Deportation of Americans during the 1930s and the Reparations Fund Board of Directors to facilitate the payment of reparations to American citizens who were unconstitutionally deported to Mexico during the 1930s. SB 552 would become a corrective measure that will help prevent future generations from enduring similar injustices. Please sign and send a letter of support to your Assembly member today.

Women's issue

Support female offender reform

By Joy Fisher, legislative analyst

As of January 31, nearly 12,000 women were incarcerated in California and another 12,000 were on parole. These are minuscule numbers compared to the numbers of men incarcerated and on parole. Besides sheer numbers, there are great differences in the profiles of male and female offenders. For example, the average female inmate is a mother in her mid-30s and a substance abuser with mental health needs who has been a victim of abuse.

A California study found that 80% of incarcerated women in California had been physically or sexually abused before their incarceration. In addition, 70% of incarcerated women have at least one child under 18. Furthermore, 70% of female offenders are serving sentences for offenses considered to be "nonserious."

Despite these differences, the vast majority of programs in the four women's prisons studied are identical to those offered in men's prisons. The very design of the high-security prisons themselves, often in geographical isolation, reveal a serious lack of awareness of female prisoners' issues, risks, and needs. In the policies, practices, and regulations that govern these women—whose crimes are overwhelmingly nonviolent—there is little recognition of the very different nature of criminal experience for women.

Research has shown that women and girl offenders are less likely to be managed effectively in systems based on male behavior. By institutionalizing these women without gender-responsive treatment, their problems are not addressed and their options for change are diminished. Research supports the need for a different approach to the management of female prisoners.

Last year, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) created the Gender Responsive Strategies Commission to advise the department on a reform plan for providing a safe and productive institutional environment for female offenders.

Continued on page 11

HIV/AIDS issue

Continued from page 3

continue to lead active lifestyles in their senior years. Although only 14% of all US-reported HIV/AIDS cases have occurred in people over 50, this number has risen twice as fast as the number in the 13–49 age range. Before 1988, the CDC reported virtually no HIV infections traced to drug use in people over 50; today drug use accounts for 17% of those infections.

According to the National Institute on Aging (NIA, part of the US National Institutes of Health), the number of HIV/AIDS cases among older people continues to grow each year because older Americans know less about HIV/AIDS than younger people. They do not always know how it spreads or the importance of using condoms, not sharing needles, getting tested for HIV, and talking about it with their doctor.

The National Association on HIV Over Fifty (NAHOF) says that there are specific ways to target older people: "Specific programs must be implemented for older adults who need to be informed about the transmission and prevention of HIV, more research is needed to study seniors' sexual and drug-using behaviors to determine HIV disease progression, and treatments and programs aimed at reaching health care and service providers should cover misdiagnoses, treatments, support groups, and more."

Only prevention can stop HIV. According to the CDC, scientific evidence indicates that the public listens to and acts on clear, compelling health information. Prevention efforts have helped slow the rate of new infections in the United States from over 150,000 per year in the late 1980s to 40,000 today.

Please write to your senator and ask him or her to vote for AB 659. With the signature of Governor Schwarzenegger, California can create communication strategies to inform, influence, and educate its youth and elderly effectively about their health, maintain safer behaviors, and help others at risk stay uninfected.

This newsletter printed on recycled paper

July legislative update

June 8 was the deadline for getting all bills out of their house of origin. Any bill not approved by its house of origin by that date is dead for this year. The following list gives you a comprehensive summary of which bills made it and which did not. Some bills that died for failure to make the deadline may be reconsidered next year.

Note: Because of our early deadline for submitting information to the newsletter, the status of some of the following bills may have changed by the time you read this. To get the latest information, visit *lambdaletters.org* and click the Legislative Update link in the main menu. The status of the bills in that list is updated daily.

Here is a list of the bills we are tracking at this time.

HIV/AIDS issues

AB 66 (Merv Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To require that prison inmates be tested for HIV shortly after imprisonment and shortly before release from prison unless the person declines testing. If they are found to be HIV-positive prior to release from prison, inmates' parole officers must be told. Inmates' spouses or domestic partners would also be told. Would require that a care and treatment plan should be devised for each inmate who tests positive.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Awaiting assignment to a committee.
LLP position: Support.

AB 110 (John Laird, D–Santa Cruz)
Purpose: To allow local governments that establish clean needle and syringe exchange programs to use state general funds to purchase clean needles and syringes for use in their programs. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Awaiting assignment to a committee. Appropriations Committee suspense file.
LLP position: Support.

AB 237 (Audra Strickland, R–Westlake Village)
Purpose: Current law provides a fund of $1 billion to pay Medi-Cal providers who treat people with HIV/AIDS or disabilities when the state budget has not been passed by the July 1 deadline and until the budget is passed. This bill increases the amount to $2 billion. **Status:** Failed in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
LLP position: Support.

AB 272 (Bonnie Garcia, R–Cathedral City)
Purpose: To require that a woman be given educational information about HIV/AIDS—and be offered HIV testing—during her annual gynecological exam. If she tests positive, she should be provided with information and counseling about her test results. **Status:** Failed in the Assembly Health Committee. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 659 (Fiona Ma, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To urge the development of age-appropriate HIV/AIDS educational materials for youth and senior citizens. Would also request the University of California to study the impact of HIV/AIDS on seniors. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Awaiting assignment to a committee.
LLP position: Support.

AB 1146 (Kevin Jeffries, R–Lake Elsinore)
Purpose: To state that the intent of the legislature is to enact legislation that would more clearly define age-appropriateness in the context of the sexual issues and education provided in the public schools. **Status:** Failed in the Assembly.
LLP position: Watch.

AB 1334 (Sandre Swanson, D–Alameda)
Purpose: To allow the distribution of condoms and other sexual barriers to prison inmates.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Awaiting assignment to a committee.
LLP position: Support.

SB 443 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To allow the use for therapeutic insemination of sperm or use of sperm in other advanced reproductive technologies if the sperm donor is found reactive for HIV or HTLV-1.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Health Committee. Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP position: Watch.

SCR 3 (Gil Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To request the Department of Transportation, upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the cost, to erect informational signs on a specified portion of State Highway Route 5 in Los Angeles County directing motorists to The Wall–Las Memorias Project AIDS monument. **Status:** Approved by the Senate and by the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP position:** Support.

Economic justice issues

AB 1 (Merv Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To improve children's access to health insurance and delete the citizenship and immigration status requirements to qualify for the Medi-Cal and Healthy Families programs.
Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Awaiting assignment to a committee.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2 (Merv Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To continue a program that provides affordable health insurance to those who are otherwise uninsurable due to medical history.
Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Awaiting assignment to a committee.
LLP position: Support.

AB 8 (Fabian Núñez, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: This bill would, as of January 1, 2009, create the California Cooperative Health Insurance Purchasing Program (Cal-CHIPP), which would function as a purchasing pool for health care coverage by employers. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Awaiting assignment to a Senate committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 12 (Jim Beall, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To provide health insurance to the employees of small businesses.
Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Awaiting assignment to a committee.
LLP position: Support.

AB 17 (Bill Emerson, R–Rancho Cucamonga)
Purpose: To assess a voluntary $50 fee on anyone seeking to obtain or renew a dental license. The money would be used to provide incentives for dentists to work in dentally underserved areas.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Referred to the Senate Business and Professions Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 21 (Dave Jones, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To provide low-income, working families with a refundable state income tax credit pegged at 15% of the federal credit regardless of whether they earn enough to be required to submit a state income tax return. **Status:** Failed in the Assembly.
LLP position: Support.

AB 22 (Sally Lieber, D–Mountain View)
Purpose: Under existing law, for purposes of determining a family's maximum aid payment under the CalWORKs program, the number of needy persons in the same family is not increased for any child born into a family that has received aid under the CalWORKs program continuously for 10 months prior to the birth of the child, with specified exceptions. This bill would repeal the exclusion of a child born into a family receiving aid for the 10 months prior to the child's birth.
Status: Failed in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 55 (Merv Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To increase the allowable income that people can earn and still qualify for Medi-Cal from 100% of the federal poverty level to 133% of the federal poverty level. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Awaiting assignment to a committee.
LLP position: Support.

AB 71 (Merv Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To provide a tax credit to small employers for the money they spend providing

Continued on page 6

Legislative Update

Continued from page 5

health care coverage for their employees.
Status: Failed in the Assembly.
LLP position: Support.

AB 75 (Sam Blakeslee, R–San Luis Obispo)
Purpose: To express the legislature's intent to create a Healthy Choices plan to provide health coverage to those Californians without coverage.
Status: Failed in the Assembly. **LLP position:** Support if intent language is made actual.

AB 121 (Bill Maze, R–Visalia)
Purpose: To allow employers to get a state income tax credit for hiring former foster care recipients. **Status:** Failed in the Assembly.
LLP position: Support.

AB 128 (Merv Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To establish a pilot project to test a gang alternative education program to see if such a program can reduce gang activity in at-risk neighborhoods. **Status:** Failed in the Assembly.
LLP position: Support.

AB 167 (Karen Bass, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To help people transition from CalWORKs to self-sufficiency by eliminating the limit on assets they can have and still qualify for CalWORKs. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Awaiting assignment to a committee. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 170 (Lori Saldana, D–San Diego)
Purpose: Existing law requires that priority for receiving state preschool services be given to low-income families. This bill would exclude from income the basic military allowance for housing received by a person serving in active duty in the military when considering eligibility for state preschool services. **Status:** Failed in the Assembly. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 172 (Karen Bass, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To require the state to contract with an entity to establish a foster care parent and child home instruction and education pilot project. Contract would end January 1, 2012.
Status: Failed in the Assembly.
LLP position: Support.

AB 176 (Dave Jones, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: Current law states that a participant in CalWORKs who receives any child support must turn that money (except $50) over to the CalWORKs program. This bill would allow a recipient with one child to keep $100 of child support money, and a recipient with two children to keep $200. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Awaiting assignment to a committee. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 184 (Karen Bass, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To require services under the state's Independent Living Program to be provided to former dependent foster children to help them to transition to self-sufficiency.
Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Awaiting assignment to a committee.
LLP position: Support.

AB 293 (Curren Price. D–Inglewood)
Purpose: To increase the homeowners' property tax exemption from $7,000 to $22,000 of the full value of a dwelling. Would increase the exemption each year by the percentage changes in the Housing Price Index for California. Would make similar changes in the renter's tax credit.
Status: Failed in the Assembly.
LLP position: Support.

AB 324 (Jim Beall, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To increase the schedule of basic rates paid to foster parents by 5% effective January 1, 2008 and, annually, by the percentage changes in the California Necessities Index. **Status:** Failed in the Assembly. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 407 (Sandre Swanson, D–Alameda)
Purpose: To establish the Probation Youth Success Act, a three-year pilot program to be conducted by the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Alameda County Office of Education. Would require those county offices of education, if they chose to participate, to provide comprehensive, integrated educational, vocational, and mental health services to selected wards in selected juvenile ranches, camps, and forestry camps. **Status:** Failed in the Assembly.
LLP position: Support.

AB 495 (Van Tran, R–Costa Mesa)
Purpose: To increase the state renters tax credits for married couples over 62 to $360 or $180 for single people over 62. **Status:** Failed in the Assembly. **LLP position:** Support if domestic partners are added to the bill.

AB 606 (Cathleen Galgiani, D–Stockton)
Purpose: To provide that commencing January 1, 2008, the Medi-Cal reimbursement levels for physician and dental services shall be increased by 5%. **Status:** Failed in the Assembly.
LLP position: Support.

AB 871 (Mike Davis, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To declare that it is the intent of the legislature to enact legislation that addresses the epidemic of hypertension and diabetes among low-income persons and persons of color in California.
Status: Failed in the Assembly. **LLP position:** Support if intent language made actual.

AB 1078 (Sally Lieber, D–Mountain View)
Purpose: To take steps to help CalWORKs participants take maximum advantage of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP position: Support.

AJR 3 (Merv Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To ask Congress and the president to increase funds for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program. **Status:** Referred to the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP position:** Support.

SB 11 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To allow virtually any two people to register as domestic partners, eliminating the requirement that domestic partners be of the same sex or that one of them be over 62 (in the case of opposite-sex couples). **Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly. Not assigned to a committee yet. **LLP position:** Support.

SB 20 (Tom Torlakson, D–Concord)
Purpose: To motivate schools to provide free meals to students on a limited income and to motivate the schools to serve only healthy food.
Status: Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP position: Support.

SB 32 (Darrell Steinberg, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To allow all California children whose family income is under 300% of the federal poverty

KILLICK
FINANCIAL SERVICES
Tax Preparation • Consulting
Bookkeeping • Payroll
Linda E. Killick • (916) 486-8985
2321 Lloyd Lane • Sacramento

This newsletter printed on recycled paper

level to have access to the Medi-Cal and Healthy Families programs. It would also eliminate the rules that deny coverage to some based on citizenship or immigration status.
Status: Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP position: Support.

SB 42 (Tom Torlakson, D–Concord)
Purpose: To qualify for CalWORKs public assistance, people must be engaged in work activities, with certain exceptions, unless they are enrolled in an approved education program. This bill would also exempt them from work if they have applied for, but not yet been accepted by, an approved education program.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Human Services Committee. Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP position: Support.

SB 48 (Don Perata, D–Oakland)
Purpose: To require all employers to provide health insurance for all employees and their dependents, or else pay a fee to the state for a statewide program providing insurance for their employees and their dependents. Employers who pay the fee would also collect a contribution from their employees to help pay for the state insurance program. **Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP position: Support.

SB 51 (Denise Moreno Ducheny, D–Chula Vista)
Purpose: To require the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board to contract with San Diegans for Healthcare Coverage to establish a pilot project to assist employers in providing health insurance to their full-time employees. Assistance might include establishing a premium assistance program and criteria for participation in the project by employers and employees, and an essential benefits package consisting of health care benefits and dental coverage to be offered by participating health care service plans. **Status:** Failed in the Senate.
LLP position: Support.

SB 107 (Elaine Alquist, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To establish the Healthy Food Retail Innovations Fund to provide residents of underserved communities with retail food markets that offer high-quality fruit, vegetables, and other healthy foods. **Status:** Failed in the Senate.
LLP position: Support.

SB 119 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To require that residential drug and alcohol treatment services for persons aged 12 to 20 be a benefit covered by the Medi-Cal Drug Treatment Program. **Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly. Not assigned to a committee yet. **LLP position:** Support.

SB 137 (Tom Torlackson, D–Antioch)
Purpose: The state and counties run treatment services for physically handicapped persons under the age of 21 in families with income of $40,000 or less. This bill would change that eligibility limitation to persons in a family with an annual or monthly income equal to or less than 400% of the federal poverty level. **Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly. Not assigned to a committee yet. **LLP position:** Support.

SB 198 (Jim Battin, R–Palm Desert)
Purpose: Existing law allows the development and operation of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing facilities that assist homeless youth by exempting these facilities from state and local laws prohibiting age discrimination in housing. Existing law defines a homeless youth as being either (a) an emancipated minor who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless or (b) a nonemancipated minor between 18 and 24, who is also homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, is no longer eligible for foster care based on age, or has run away from home. This bill would expand the definition of a homeless youth to include anyone 24 years of age and younger. This bill would prohibit a homeless youth who is less than 18 years of age from being placed in housing for homeless youth that include homeless youth who are 18 years of age or older except under certain circumstances. **Status:** Died in the Senate.
LLP position: Support.

SB 275 (Gil Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To prohibit hospitals from dumping indigent patients on the streets after discharging them from the hospital. **Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly Health Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP position:** Support.

SB 438 (Sam Aanestad, R–Grass Valley)
Purpose: To increase Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for providers over the next eight years and to make it a budget priority to increase the lowest rates first. **Status:** Failed in the Senate.
LLP position: Support.

SB 785 (Darrell Steinberg, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To establish forms and procedures to provide mental health care to certain children in foster care. **Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly Human Services Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP position:** Support.

SB 840 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Santa Monica)
Purpose: To establish a single-payer health insurance program (where the state collects funds from various sources and then pays all medical bills), which would provide affordable health insurance to every person in California.
Status: Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP position: Support.

SB 999 (Leland Yee, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To allow for the possibility of parole if a person convicted of murder was under the age of 18 at the time of the murder. **Status:** Failed in the Senate. **LLP position:** Support.

LGBTI Issues

AB 11 (Chuck Devore, R–Irvine)
Purpose: To require that, upon the death of a person issued special auto license plates, the plates be transferred to the surviving spouse or domestic partner, if he or she requests, or be returned to the Department of Motor Vehicles within 60 days after the death of the plate holder or upon the expiration of the vehicle registration, whichever occurs first. **Status:** Failed in the Assembly.
LLP position: Support.

AB 14 (John Laird, D–Santa Cruz)
Purpose: To prohibit California businesses from withholding services to customers because of the customer's sexual orientation, among other things, or from encouraging other businesses to do so.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 43 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To allow same-sex couples to marry in California. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Awaiting assignment to a committee. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 102 (Fiona Ma, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To allow a woman to retain her maiden name when she marries. It would allow men to easily change their last name to their wife's maiden name when they marry. Would also allow either or both domestic partners to change their name when registering their domestic partnership, using the same simple procedure a women now uses in changing her last name when she marries. In addition, it would create a process by which domestic partners, upon registering with the state, could change their names as easily as women can now when getting a marriage license.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee. For a hearing on June 19. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 250 (Chuck DeVore, R–Irvine)
Purpose: To allow the owner of real property to complete a brief document transferring the property to another person upon the death of the owner. The property transferred would not have to go through the expensive, lengthy probate process.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Awaiting assignment to a committee.
LLP position: Support. If passed, this law could help many same-sex couples.

AB 384 (Anthony Portantino, D–La Canada Flintridge)
Purpose: For the University of California and Cal State University, this bill would excuse the mandatory systemwide tuition and fees for any surviving spouse, domestic partner, or surviving child or stepchild of a deceased federal firefighter who was performing services in this state, upon specified circumstances. Would also provide health

Continued on page 8

Legislative Update

Continued from page 7

benefits to these family members of a federal civilian fire fighter who dies in the line of duty.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Awaiting assignment to a committee.
LLP position: Support.

AB 392 (Ted Lieu, D–Torrance)
Purpose: To require employers to allow an employee who is a spouse of a member of the armed forces, National Guard, or Reserves to take up to 10 days of unpaid leave during a leave period of the service member. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Referred to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP position: Support if bill is amended to include domestic partners of service members.

AB 394 (Lloyd Levine, D–Van Nuys)
Purpose: To require the State Department of Education to monitor adherence to the anti-discrimination and anti-harassment requirements as part of its regular monitoring and review of public schools and school districts.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Awaiting assignment to a committee.
LLP position: Support.

AB 537 (Sandre Swanson, D–Alameda)
Purpose: To require employers to allow employees to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave in a 12-month period to care for a seriously ill domestic partner, among others. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Awaiting assignment to a committee. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 629 (Julia Brownley, D–Santa Monica)
Purpose: To require school-based sex education programs to be comprehensive, age-appropriate, and medically accurate. They must not teach religion or encourage bias against people on any of several bases, including sexual orientation.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Awaiting assignment to a committee.
LLP position: Support.

AB 675 (Mike Eng, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To establish a pilot project in public schools to teach tolerance and fight hate against several minorities including the LGBTI community.
Status: Failed in the Assembly Education Committee. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 1249 (Jim Silva, R–Huntington Beach)
Purpose: To require the notification of the parent or guardian of a pupil regarding teacher-initiated discussions on sexual orientation issues.
Status: Failed in the Assembly Education Committee. **LLP position:** Oppose.

AB 1498 (Chuck DeVore, R–Irvine)
Purpose: To exempt state contractors from the requirement that they not discriminate in the provision of benefits in an activity or program that is not part of a state-funded program or activity.
Status: Failed in the Assembly.
LLP position: Oppose.

AB 1648 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To overturn the holding of the California Supreme Court decision in Copley Press v. Superior Court (2006) 39 Cal.4th 1272, and to restore public access to police officer disciplinary records regarding police misconduct.
Status: Failed in the Public Safety Committee.
LLP position: Support.

SB 518 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To require the Division of Juvenile Justice and local juvenile facilities to provide care, placement, and services to children in their custody without discriminating on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, among others. **Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly. Not assigned to a committee yet. **LLP position:** Support.

SB 559 (Christine Kehoe, D–San Diego)
Purpose: To require that any transfer of property between registered domestic partners that occurred on or after January 1, 2000, and before January 1, 2006, be exempt from reappraisal and increased property taxes based upon a reappraisal. If a person requests reversal of a previous reappraisal, because of this law, on or before June 30, 2009, the county must do it. But the reversed reappraisal would be effective only from the time the request was made. **Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP position: Support.

SB 777 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica)
Purpose: To ban employment discrimination in public and private colleges and universities, or discrimination in instructional activities, or in educational materials on the bases of disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic contained in the definition of hate crimes found in California law. **Status:** Approved by the Senate. Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a hearing on June 19. **LLP position:** Support.

SJR 6 (Christine Kehoe, D–San Diego)
Purpose: To ask Congress to revoke the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in the armed services.
Status: Approved by the Senate. Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a vote June 19.
LLP position: Support.

People of color issues

AB 34 (Anthony Portantino, D–Pasadena)
Purpose: To require the state to create a pilot program to increase the ethnic diversity of the umbilical cord blood supply in blood banks. It would select blood banks in ethnically diverse areas to participate in the program.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP position: Support.

AB 46 (Van Tran, R–Costa Mesa)
Purpose: To make it a felony to use intimidation to try to prevent someone who has the right to vote from actually voting. **Status:** Died in the Assembly. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 72 (Merv Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To encourage schools to teach about the contributions of Filipinos during World War II.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Education Committee for a vote June 19.
LLP position: Support.

AB 74 (Merv Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To request that the Regents of the University of California establish and administer an Institute for the Study of the Phenomenon of Obesity and Diabetes Experimental Research (PODER) at the University of California, Irvine, in coordination with the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science; and to establish and administer one or more clinics that are affiliated with the PODER Institute to focus on individuals or groups who suffer from obesity and diabetes.
Status: Failed in the Assembly.
LLP position: Support.

AB 145 (Joe Coto, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To require the Trustees of the California State University to authorize San Jose State University and the National Hispanic University to enter into a collaboration agreement that would include outreach, transfer, joint classes for credit, and other programs of education, research, and public service as the trustees and the National Hispanic University deem to be in the public

interest. Would also require this collaboration to include a five-year pilot program to improve participation in higher education. The bill would appropriate $10 million annually beginning with the 2007–08 fiscal year from the state general fund to the Office of the Chancellor of California State University to carry out these provisions.
Status: Failed in the Assembly.
LLP position: Support.

AB 158 (Fiona Ma, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To require the State Department of Public Health to establish a hepatitis B and C prevention and management pilot program within its Office of Multi-Cultural Health. This would provide matching grants to public and not-for-profit organizations in the Los Angeles area and the San Francisco Bay Area for the purposes of providing culturally and language-appropriate public awareness and other activities relating to the prevention and management of hepatitis B.
Status: Failed in the Assembly.
LLP position: Support.

AB 174 (Curren Price, D–Irvine)
Purpose: To allow the State Personnel Board to order a state agency that is found to discriminate in its employment actions to take various remedial actions, including payment of reasonable attorney's fees to the employee. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 271 (Paul Cook, R–Yucca Valley)
Purpose: To prohibit undocumented immigrants from getting the same benefits as citizens. Would require proof of citizenship to get any state-funded benefits. **Status:** Failed in the Assembly.
LLP position: Oppose.

AB 288 (Curren Price, D–Inglewood)
Purpose: To fine those who intimidate people to either vote or not vote. Would use fines to pay for voter education programs. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 295 (Ted Lieu, D–Torrance)
Purpose: To require state agencies, when collecting demographic data, to include categories allowing people to identify themselves as members of a particular races or nationalities that are not currently on the list. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 480 (Kevin De Leon, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To encourage school districts to engage in programs to assist English learners to pass the high school exit examination. **Status:** Failed in the Assembly. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 590 (Jose Solorio, D–Santa Ana)
Purpose: To establish grants to provide matching funds to school districts to improve communication with, and involvement of, limited-English-proficient parents in their children's education.
Status: Failed in the Assembly.
LLP position: Support.

AB 658 (Karen Bass, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To require the state Department of Health to prepare a report on Homicide among African Americans in California. If funds are available, this bill would establish pilot projects to seek to reduce homicides among African Americans in Oakland and Los Angeles.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP position: Support.

AB 770 (Ed Hernandez, D–Baldwin Park)
Purpose: To declare that it is the intent of the legislature that agricultural employees be provided health care coverage and that agricultural employers offering that coverage be allowed to lower their total health care costs. **Status:** Failed in the Assembly. **LLP position:** Support if intent language made actual.

AB 976 (Charles Calderon, D–Whittier)
Purpose: To prohibit a city, county, or city and county from requiring a landlord to, among other things, compile, disclose, report, provide, or otherwise take any action regarding the characteristics of a tenant or a prospective tenant based on the immigration or citizenship status of that tenant. The bill would also prohibit a landlord from independently performing any of these acts.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee for a vote on June 19.
LLP position: Support.

AB 1052 (Alberto Torrico, D–Newark)
Purpose: To establish a demonstration program that includes three counties in the state and provides for training and career ladder opportunities for preschool teachers who provide instruction to limited-English-proficient children. Schools, colleges and nonprofits would be eligible to apply for funds under the program. **Status:** Failed in the Assembly. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 1726 (Assembly Judiciary Committee)
Purpose: To require the courts to provide an interpreter when one of the parties to a case speaks limited English and cannot afford to pay for an interpreter. **Status:** Failed in the Assembly.
LLP position: Support.

ACR 21 (Anthony Portantino, D–La Canada Flintridge)
Purpose: To urge the regents of the University of California to establish a student exchange program, or another form of academic partnership, between one or more campuses of the University of California and one or more of the institutions that are classified as historically black colleges and universities.
Status: Approved by the Senate Education Committee. Referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP position: Support.

AJR 1 (Merv Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To ask Congress and the president to designate the Charles R. Drew College of Medicine and Science as a historically black college, university, and graduate school.
Status: Approved by the legislature. The legislative process is complete for this bill.
LLP position: Support.

AJR 2 (Merv Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To ask Congress and the president to give veterans benefits to Filipino Americans who served in the US armed services during World War II and to ask that efforts be made to speed up reunification of them and their families, where their families are awaiting visas. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet. **LLP position:** Support.

SB 1 (Gil Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To create an Office of Immigrant Affairs to help immigrants successfully integrate into American society. It would authorize the office to enter into contracts with nonprofit groups to help the process. **Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP position: Support.

SB 26 (Joseph Simitian, D–Palo Alto)
Purpose: To require state agencies to allow people to select one or more categories when agencies obtain information about people's ethnicity. **Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP position: Support.

SB 60 (Gil Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To allow certain undocumented immigrants to obtain drivers' licenses in a way that complies with federal law.
Status: Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly Transportation Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP position:** Support.

SB 160 (Gil Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Current law states that certain undocumented immigrants who graduate from a California high school are eligible for in-state tuition rates at California's public colleges and universities. This bill says they would also qualify for in-state tuition if they graduated from a California secondary school, California technical school, or adult school. The bill also says these students may qualify for tuition waivers and scholarships under the same terms as any other resident of California. **Status:** Failed in the Senate. **LLP position:** Support.

SB 192 (Denise Ducheny, D–San Diego)
Purpose: To continue a program for which certain licensing requirements were due to expire in 2008.

Continued on page 10

Legislative Update

Continued from page 9

The program provides a group, employer-provided health insurance program for Mexican nationals legally employed in San Diego and Imperial Counties for medical care provided to employees and their families in Mexico. The doctors providing treatment must meet licensing requirements in both California and Mexico. The bill extends this licensing requirement indefinitely.
Status: Approved by the Senate. Referred to the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on June 26. **LLP position:** Support.

SB 552 (Gil Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To establish a program for providing compensation to those who were unconstitutionally deported to Mexico during the 1930s.
Status: Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP position: Support.

Women's issues

AB 28 (Jared Huffman, D–San Rafael)
Purpose: To extend the program that allows people to send additional dollars with their state income tax returns, and to ask that the extra money be given to the California Breast Cancer Research Fund. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Referred to the Senate Revenue and Tax Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP position: Support.

AB 76 (Sally Lieber, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To require the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to design rehabilitation programs to meet the unique needs of women prisoners.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP position: Support.

AB 225 (Jim Beall, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To reduce the number of harassing phone calls to another person that is required to trigger penalties for making harassing phone calls. It would make the law tougher on those who harass others. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Referred to the Senate Public Safety Committee. Hearing cancelled at the request of the author. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 268 (Charles Calderon, D–Montebello)
Purpose: To excuse from testifying in court people who attend the hearing but refuse to testify because of intimidation by one of the parties to the court case. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP position: Support.

AB 335 (Kevin De Leon, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To allow CalWORKs public assistance to be provided to a domestic abuse victim on the basis of sworn statements that he or she became homeless because of domestic abuse.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP position: Support.

AB 348 (Bonnie Garcia, R–Cathedral City)
Purpose: To enact provisions to further the purposes of the SAFE program to reduce domestic violence. **Status:** Failed in the Assembly.
LLP position: Support.

AB 435 (Julia Brownley, D–Santa Monica)
Purpose: To require employers to keep wage and job classification records for up to five years. This would allow employees up to six years to file sex-based wage discrimination complaints against employers and collect back wages due.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP position: Support.

AB 502 (Charles Calderon, D–Montebello)
Purpose: To enact legislation creating a pilot program that enables a community-based organization to provide legal advice and aid to victims of domestic violence who are undocumented immigrants.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP position: Support.

AB 589 (Lloyd Levine, D–Van Nuys)
Purpose: To establish the Statewide Task Force on Teen Dating and Sexual Violence which would be required to develop a culturally competent model policy and protocol for school response to teen dating and sexual violence. School districts working with nonprofits would be required to implement the plan.
Status: Failed in the Assembly.
LLP position: Support.

AB 603 (Curren Price, D–Inglewood)
Purpose: To extend the deadline until 2013 of laws that protect the confidentiality of victims of domestic violence who seek help from domestic violence programs, and of people who are served by family planning programs.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Assigned to the Senate Elections Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 1275 (Mark DeSaulnier, D–Concord)
Purpose: To allow counties to increase fees for copies of marriage certificates, birth certificates, and death records for the purpose of funding governmental oversight and coordination of domestic violence prevention, early intervention, and prosecution efforts in the county—up to a maximum increase of $4.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Local Government Committee for a vote on June 27. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 1429 (Noreen Evans, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To require health care services plans and health insurance contracts to cover the cost of cervical cancer vaccination.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Referred to the Senate Health Committee for a vote on June 20. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 1679 (Noreen Evans, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To amend current law to allow attorney's fees to be included in support payments due to a child in a divorce or separation case.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP position:** Support.

ACR 11 (Jim Beall, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To declare October 2007 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
Status: Introduced. **LLP position:** Support.

ACR 15 (Sally Lieber, D–Mountain View)
Purpose: To commemorate January 2007 as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month.
Status: Introduced. **LLP position:** Support.

AJR 4 (Jim Beall, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To ask Congress to end a $25 fee charged to families who do not go on public assistance but who do receive at least $500 in child support with the help of a state child support collection program.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Referred to the Senate Human Services Committee. Hearing cancelled by the author. **LLP position:** Support.

SB 265 (Gloria Romero, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To state that the Division of Juvenile Justice shall explore options to provide programming for female offenders outside of division facilities. On or before January 1, 2009, the division shall transfer all female offenders out of division facilities.
Status: Approved by the Senate. Referred to the Senate Public Safety Committee for a vote on June 19. **LLP position:** Support.

SB 524 (Ellen Corbett, D–San Leandro)
Purpose: To allow the victim of domestic violence to have his or her voter registration records kept confidential to avoid an abuser from using those records to find the victim.
Status: Approved by the Senate. Referred to the Senate Elections Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP position:** Support.

This newsletter printed on recycled paper

Women's issue

Continued from page 4

Assembly Bill 76, authored by Assemblymember Sally Lieber (D–Mountain View), seeks to increase the institutional response to these special circumstances by requiring the CDCR to create a Female Offender Master Reform Plan.

Lieber believes that "improving conditions and services for women in prison can substantially reduce the economic, social, and healthcare burden for parolees, their families, and the state, and ultimately help reduce recidivism."

AB 76 would, among other things, require CDCR to contract with national experts to conduct a staffing analysis in prisons that house women and develop programs and training for staff; and design and implement evidence-based, gender-specific rehabilitative programs and housing strategies, including educational, healthcare, vocational, substance abuse, and trauma treatment programs, and establish a family service coordinator at each women's prison.

Important components of the policies and practices to be developed would focus on principles summarized in the National Institute of Corrections report, "Gender-Responsive Strategies," and on gender-focused education developed by the Office of Correctional Education.

The strategies would do the following: acknowledge that gender makes a difference; create an environment based on safety, respect, and dignity; develop policies, practices, and programs that are relational and promote healthy connections to children; address substance abuse, trauma, and mental health issues through comprehensive, integrated, culturally relevant services and appropriate supervision; provide women with opportunities to improve their socioeconomic conditions; and establish a system of community supervision and reentry with comprehensive, collaborative services.

The education would include specific programs designed to address gender-specific issues and provide women inmates with tools to identify activities and behaviors that would improve the physical and emotional health of women inmates and the health of their families, particularly their children; improve social and life skills to increase the chances of female inmates to obtain and keep employment, thereby promoting self-sufficiency; analyze and improve the parenting skills and techniques of female inmates with special attention being given to single parenting; assist female inmates to realize the importance of family, literacy, and developing positive and proactive attitudes and behaviors toward their own, and their children's, education; teach female inmates proven, transferable anger and stress management techniques; and teach female inmates to recognize the characteristics of both healthy and toxic relationships and formulate a personal plan.

This bill is similar to AB 2066, also authored by Assemblymember Lieber, which was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee. AB 76 has passed the Assembly and, by mid-June, was referred to the Senate Committee on Public Safety for hearing. Please write your senator to urge passage of this important bill.

You could win $250

Continued from page 1

recruit new members. All entry forms must be received no later than the close of business that day. However, I encourage you to send in the entry forms as soon as each one is filled out. That way we can begin services to the new members as soon as possible.

One final note for those who think Lambda Letters' money should not be spent paying prizes. It will not be. All prize money will come out of my own pocket.

So there you have it. I look forward to hearing that many new memberships are coming in as a response to this challenge.

LGBTI issue

Continued from page 3

claiming their schools failed to protect them from harassment, intimidation, and violence. In 2005 a jury in San Diego awarded $300,000 to two former high school students for the harassment they received at school based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation. This past January a Contra Costa County lawsuit alleging that school officials failed to protect a student from repeated attacks motivated by racial and ethnic prejudice resulted in a $45,000 settlement.

Our students need to be protected so that they can be educated. They must feel safe at school before they can concentrate on their studies. Please write to your senator and urge him or her to support this very important legislation.

Why did you get two envelopes?

By Boyce Hinman, chief analyst

If you and your partner are both members of Lambda Letters, you used to receive your sample letters combined in a single envelope, along with one copy of the newsletter. Starting in June we had to start sending each person his or her own envelope, containing the sample letters and newsletter.

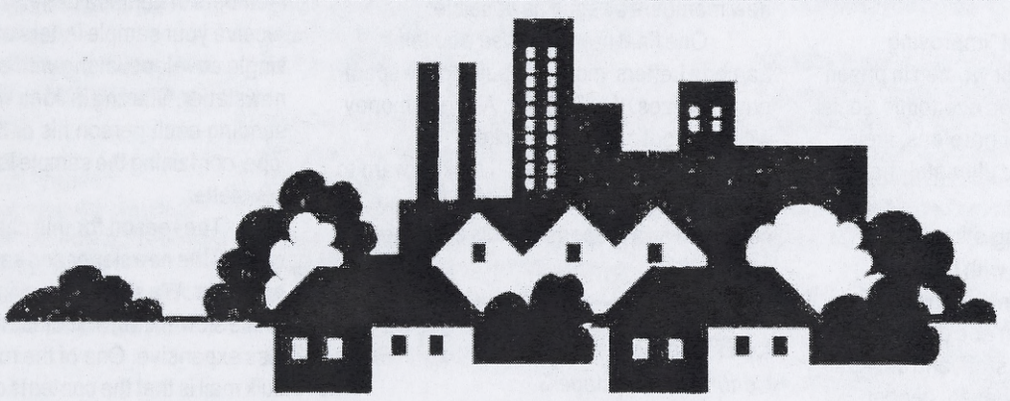
The reason for this change is the way we mail the newsletter and sample letters to members: We send our mailings bulk mail. It's a little slower than first-class mail but it is much less expensive. One of the rules for sending bulk mail is that the contents of each envelope in a mailing must have the same contents as any other envelope in the mailing. So we cannot send two sets of letters to one household and one set of letters to another household within the same bulk mailing.

Another rule is that you must have at least 200 envelopes in a mailing to qualify for the bulk mail rate.

We had been sending envelopes to over 200 couples until this last mailing. At that time, we had to remove many of those couples from our mailing list because they were not returning their signed letters to us. When we did that, we ended up with fewer than 200 couples on the bulk mailing list. This meant we could no longer send couples our combined envelopes; we had to send each person the same envelope, whether they shared a household or not, because we no longer had 200 households with two people on our mailing list.

Do you have any friends who are a couple? Can you get them to join Lambda Letters? If we can get enough couples to join the organization, we could go back to sending out our combined envelopes to couples.

This newsletter printed on recycled paper



WHISLER LAND COMPANY

For All Your Real Estate Needs

Commercial and Residential Sales 916-446-6666

Property Management and Rentals 916-446-6663

Serving Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Solano, San Francisco, and Yolo Counties, and Outlying Areas Since 1975

Proud Supporters of Our Community and many of its Organizations

www.whisler.com

This newsletter printed on recycled paper